## REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 26, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 26 have been amended. Claim 27 has been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-9 and 20-27 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification, for example, on page 2 at lines 15-17 and on page 5 at lines 1-3. Support for the amendments to claims 20 and 25, and for new claim 27, is also found in the specification, for example, on page 4 at lines 14-16, and on page 6 at lines 6-8 and lines 25-26.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection but have amended claims 1, 20, 22, 23, and 26 to advance this case to allowance. In light of the claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 20-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zetena (U.S. Patent 5,316,244). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claims 1, 20, 22, 23, and 26 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter via a continuing application.

Zetena discloses a cable raceway having a channel member 5 interconnected by telescope members 15. The Examiner has characterized the channel member 5 and one of the telescope members 15 as first and second trough sections of a telescoping U-shaped trough. Accordingly, a connector 115 of the raceway and the other of the telescope members 15 have been characterized as ends of U-shaped end members to which the first and second trough sections connect.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a method of assembling a cable routing system including providing a telescoping U-shaped trough with first and second trough sections. The first and second trough sections each have a terminal end and a receiving end. The terminal ends of the first and second trough sections have the same connecting configuration such that the telescoping U-shaped trough is reversible.

The telescoping U-shaped trough of Zetena, as characterized by the Examiner, is not reversible. That is, the terminal ends both of the telescope member 15 and the channel 5 do not have the same connecting configuration so that the trough can be reversed. In particular, the first telescope member 15 is not connectable to the second telescope trough 15 (see FIG. 19), and the channel 5 is not connectable to the connector 115 of the raceway.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

B. Claims 2-6, 8, and 9

Claim 2 recites a method of assembling a cable routing system including providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second trough sections. The method further includes selectively connecting the first trough section to either one of the first and second ends members.

Neither of the trough sections of Zetena, as characterized by the Examiner, can be selectively connected to either one of the telescope member or the raceway connector 115. That is, the first telescope member 15 is not connectable to the second telescope trough 15 (see FIG. 19), and the channel 5 is not connectable to the raceway connector 115. Therefore, neither of the member 15 or the channel 5 can be selectively connected to either one of the other telescope member 15 or the raceway connector 115.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 2, and dependent claims 3-6, 8, and 9 are patentable.

C. Claims 20-23 and 26

Claim 20 recites a method of assembling a cable routing system including providing a telescoping cable trough with first and second trough sections. The first and second

trough sections are in sliding contact with one another. The sliding movement of the first and second trough sections is limited between a minimum extension position and a maximum extension position to prevent sliding separation of the first and second trough sections.

The sliding movement of the channel 5 and the telescoping member 15 of Zetena is not limited between a minimum extension position and a maximum extension position to prevent sliding separation. Instead, the channel 5 and the telescoping member 15 can slide relative to one anther such that the channel 5 and the telescoping member 15 do in fact separate.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 20, and dependent claims 22, 23, and 26 are patentable.

## Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zetena in view of Merckle (U.S. Patent 3,351,699). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7 depends upon claim 2. Claims 24 and 25 depend upon claim 20. In view of the remarks regarding independent claims 2 and 20, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 7, 24, and 25 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claims 7, 24, and 25 are in condition for allowance.

## SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-9 and 20-27) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Aug. 24, 2005

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